THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No such proposal has been received by the Central Government. However, VSNL has recently commissioned an earth station at Indore for providing Internet connectivity. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation to provide High Speed Data Communication facility at Indore that will provide nodes at Gwalior and Bhopal.

Setting Up of Electronic Software Parks

†1576. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes pertaining to setting up of electronic software parks in various States is being organised by Government;

(b) if so, the names of the places alongwith the names of the States for which assistance has been provided by Government.

(c) whether any scheme related to electronic park for Madhya Pradesh has been sanctioned by Government; and

(d) whether Government will approve any specific scheme for sanction of electronic park, in view of the backwardness of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is implementing a scheme for setting up of Software Technology Park in different States.

(b) Ministry of Information Technology (erstwhile Department of Electronics) has provided financial support to the following Software Technology Parks:

	State	Centres
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore, Mysore, Manipal
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Vizag
3.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai, Coimbatore

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

	State	Centres
4.	Maharashtra	Pune, Navi Mumbai
5.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
6.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Noida
8.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
9.	Punjab	Mohali
10.	Kerala	Thiruvanthapuram
11.	Assam	Guwahati

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Software Technology Parks of India, an autonomous society under the Ministry of Information Technology, has signed and MoU to provide High Speed Data Communication facility in Indore with nodes at Gwalior and Bhopal. This facility is being created for the Software exporting units.

Double Texation for Indian Software Companies

1577. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the "Indian Software Companies suffer double taxation as they pay taxes at this end as well as adhere to the taxation norms of the United States" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 22nd February, 2000; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to sign the totalisation agreement with the US at the earliest, so that Indian Companies are not required to pay the tax twice?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government and appropriate steps have been initiated to address to issue.

Recommendations of Task Force on IT

1578. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: